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Re: [REDACTED] USSR Atlas
(proposed)

29 Apr 58

1. In general, any activity outside the Government which tends to increase the study of Soviet matters should be encouraged, even when the activity has no direct intelligence value. The evaluation of such an activity, it follows, should be on other than specific intelligence grounds.
2. Although the proposed economic atlas will have little intelligence value, it could fill a need as a handy general reference throughout the Agency and as a training tool. GC/S has in the past given thought to filling this need. Under present conditions it is impossible for GC/S to consider this need in the foreseeable future. A modest financial encouragement to the proposed atlas would seem to be a good investment if the atlas could, even partially, fill this need.
3. Without a sample sheet it is impossible to make a qualitative evaluation of the proposed atlas. Before any financial support is proffered, therefore, assurances on the following minimum criteria should be obtained:

Content: The atlas should contain essentially the same economic data to be found in unclassified Soviet atlases, school maps and economic geographies of recent issue. All these materials are available in the Library of Congress.

Format: An elaborate multicolor format is not necessary--is not even desirable. Legibility criterion should be the black & white illustrations in the Soviet economic geographies.

Place-names: Placenames should conform to the BGN system of transliteration. A BGN edit is not necessary.

Cartog.
[initials]
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